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MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

the year ended December 31st. 1956

MEDICAL OFFICER - Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B.,B.CH.,D.P.H.
Town Hall, Newtown, Mont.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER - D. Bryn Jones, Cert.S.I.E.J.B.

MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Names of Councillors for the Year ending 31st December, 1956

CHAIRMAN --- --- E. R. Hughes, Esq.,

VICE CHAIRMAN --- L. R. Williams, Esq.,

COUNCILLORS: Messrs R.L. Williams,
" Dan Butler
Thomas Hughes
Morris Griffiths
Stanley Hughes
W.I. Jones
David Wigley
Richard Jones

STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

D. Bryn Jones, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

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To: The Chairman and Members of the
Machynlleth Rural District Council

GENTLEMEN:

I have th honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1956 on the health and sanitary conditions in your district and which is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 19/56 (Wales)

STAFF: There were no staff changes in the year under review.

VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate for 1956 was 11.51 per 1,000 population, comparing with 12.33 per 1,000 in 1955. The rate for the Rural Districts in the County was 15.05 and for the Whole County this rate was 15.0.

There were no still births in 1956, whilst in 1955 there was 1. In the rural district the still birth rate was 1.2% of live births and in the whole county this rate was 1.8%

There were 3 illegitimate births, giving a rate of 8.6% total birhhs in 1956, this rate being 7½6% in 1955. In the Rural Districts of this County this rate was 4.1% and in the whole County 3.94%

Infant Mortality

There were two deaths of infants under 1 year, giving an infant mortality rate of 57 per 1,000 live births. The rate in 1955 was 0. In the Rural districts of the County the rate was 32 per 1,000 and in the whole County 30 per 1,000. This figure is high, and whilst every effort is made by the doctors to reduce this often unnecessary mortality, it sometimes happens that these infant deaths are unavoidable.

In this district the cause of death was congenital debility in a girl aged 3 days and cerebral trauma due to prolonged labour occuring in another girl at 3 days.

Deaths

There were 39 deaths from all causes giving a rate of 12.83 per 1,000 population, this rate being 12.99 in 1955. The rate for the Rural Districts in the County was 11.81 and for the whole County 12 .19.

There was one death from Tuberculosis. This was a man who was aged 58 in 1948 when he was notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis

National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 47

No action was taken in 1956.

Housing and Water Supply

In 1956 the Council completed the erection of 20 houses at Esgairgeiliog and of 4 at Llan, Llanbrynmair

The water supplies throughout the area in general are still unsatisfactory and very little can be done until the Comprehensive Scheme to supply the whole district with water is an accomplished fact. Then the natural sequence of sewering some of the larger villages can be carried out.

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Housing and Water Supply (Continued)

The only mains supply in the district is at Esgairgeiliog where a supply of water is obtained from the Dolgelley Rural District.

The small schemes supplying the villages are totally inadequate for a good standard of hygiene to be enjoyed by the inhabitants of the district. Still only comparatively few houses enjoy a piped water supply and many rely solely on stand-pipes. Although the quality of water is on the whole satisfactory, the quantity is still inadequate and entails rat rationing in the Summer months.

I should like to express my appreciation of Mr. Jones' efforts in dealing with the many varied and often harassing problems which he meets every day and to thank the Council for the interest which they show in matters concerning the health of the inhabitants of its district.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS

Medical Officer of Health

County Health Offices,
Newtown, Mont.

June, 1957.

STATISTICS

	1956	1955
Area in acres	98,564	98,564
Population (Registrar-General's Mid year estimate)	3,040	3,080
Rateable Value	£12,470	£6,826
Sum represented by one penny rate	£40	£25. 9s. 8d.

LIVE BIRTHS

	1956			1955		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate --- --- ---	16	16	32	21	14	35
Illegitimate --- --- ---	2	1	3	3	0	3
Total --- --- --- ---	18	17	35	24	14	38

Births per 1,000 population	1956	1955
(a) Machynlleth R.D.	11.51	12.33
(b) Rural Districts	15.05	14.45
(c) Whole County	15.0	14.87

STILL BIRTHS

	1956	1955
Still births as % of live births	0	1
(a) Machynlleth Rural District	0	2.6
(b) Rural Districts	1.2	3.0
(c) Whole County	1.8	2.6

INFANT MORTALITY

	1956	1955
Rate per 1,000 live births	2	0
(a) Machynlleth Rural District	57	0
(b) Rural Districts	32	30
(c) Whole County	30	28

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

	1956 Male	1956 Female	1956 Total	1955 Male	1955 Female	1955 Total
Death rate per 1,000 population	22	17	39	20	20	20
(a) Machynlleth R.D.			12.83			12.99
(b) Rural Districts			11.81			12.49
(c) Whole County			12.19			12.57

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATH

	1956 Male	1956 Female	1956 Total	1955 Male	1955 Female	1955 Total
Under 1 year	0	2	2	0	0	0
1 - 5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 -	0	0	0	1	0	1
35 -	1	0	1	1	0	1
45 -	1	1	2	0	0	0
55 -	2	1	3	2	2	4
65 -	7	4	11	3	4	7
75 -	10	6	16	7	9	16
85 and over	1	3	4	6	5	11
TOTAL:	22	17	39	20	20	40

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1956 Male	1956 Female	1956 Total	1955 Male	1955 Female	1955 Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcle Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm - Stomach	4	0	4	1	0	1
" " - Lung and bronchus	0	0	0	0	0	0
" " Breast	0	0	0	0	0	0
" " Uterus	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5	0	3	3
Leukaemia	1	0	1	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	1	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	2	5	2	7	9
Coronary disease (Angina)	3	3	6	4	0	4
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other heart disease	3	5	8	3	3	6
Other circulatory disease	0	0	0	3	1	4

	1956			1955		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	4	4
Other diseases of respiratory system)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gastritis and nephrosis, diarrhoea)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis, nephrosis	0	1	1	5	0	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1	0	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion		0	0	-	0	0
Congental malformation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other defined and ill defined diseases)	1	2	3	0	1	1
Motor Vehicle accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	22	17	39	20	20	40

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The diseases which are notifiable are:-

Scarlet Fever ,	Whooping Cough	Measles
Diphtheria	Small Pox	Poliomyalitis
Acute encephalitis	Dysentery	Meningococal Infection
Pnerperal pyrexia	Acute pneumonia	Ophthalmia
Enteric Fever	Food poisoning	neonatorum
Paratyphoid	Erysipelas	Malaria

During 1956 Twentyseven cases of Measles were notified.

QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTION OF MEASLES

1st Quarter ended	March 31st	-	1	Case
2nd Quarter ended	June 30th	-	1	Case
3rd Quarter ended	Sept. 30th	-	4	Cases
4th Quarter ended	Decr. 31st	-	21	Cases

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF MEASLES

	Male	Female
Under 1 year	0	0
1 -	0	1
2 -	0	0
3 -	1	0
4 -	0	2
5 - 9	11	7
10 - 14	1	3
15 - 24	0	0
Over 25	1	0
TOTAL:	14	13

TUBERCULOSIS

One new case of Tuberculosis was notified in 1956. This was a man of 64 with pulmonary involuement

TUBERCULOSIS (Continued)

There was one death due to tuberculosis. This was a man who was aged 58 in 1948 when he was notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis

Two cases were removed from the register, having left the district:-

(1) A female aged 20 in 1943 when notified with pulmonary tuberculosis
(2) Female aged 26 in 1952 when notified with the left sacro-iliac joint infected.

At the end of the year there were 24 cases of notified tuberculosis living in the district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

AMBULANCE:

The local Sercice consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council.

Telephones: Machynlleth 158
Machynlleth 179

CHILDREN'S OFFICER:

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act 1948. The Officer is:-

Mr. S.M. Parsons,
County Offices,
Welshpool

Telephone - Welshpool 3311

The Children's Home is at 12, Bronwylfa, Welshpool

Telephone - Welshpool 109

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

The district is served by:-

(1) Nurse M. Jones,
2, Maglona Villas,
Machynlleth

Telephone - Machynlleth 129

Her area covers - Derwenlas, Aberhosan, Melinbarhedyn, Forge, Uwchygarreg, Pantperthog and Penegoes.

(2) Sister M.E. Ryder
Penybanc,
Cwmlline,

Telephone - Aberangell 225.

Her area covers - Cemmaes Road, Darowen, Talywern, Cemmaes Abercegir, Llanwrin, and Commins Coch

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING: (Continued)

(3) Sister L. Evans,
Glasfryn,
Llanbrynmair

Telephone - Llanbrynmair 234.

Her area covers - Llanbrynmair, Staylittle and Talerddig

HEALTH VISITOR:

Miss Eunice Jones is the Health Visitor for the whole of the district and she lives at
Gaerwen,
Corris,
Machynlleth.

Telephone - Corris 225.

HOME HELP SERVICE:

In certain cases such as home confinements, sickness and the care of the elderly, Home Help is available.

Application for particulars etc., should be made to the Supervisor:-

Mrs. Rhoda Goodwin,
County Health Offices,
Newtown, Mont.

Telephone - Newtown 205

LABORATORY SERVICE:

A Branch of the Public Health Laboratory is at the Cardiganshire General Hospital Aberystwyth under the direction of Dr. M.N.V. Sudds, - Telephone Aberystwyth 216

This laboratory is used frequently by the Public Health Offices of this local Authority, chiefly for the testing of frequent water samples.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

The County Council is responsible for this Service.

Infant Welfare Clinics serving the area are held at:-

(1) The Old National School near the Station at Machynlleth on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 2.0.p.m. This is a recently acquired Clinic, being a conversion of an old School. It is a well-equipped and light and airy Clinic.

(2) Llanbrynmair Village Hall on the second Thursday in each month at 2.30.p.m.

(3) Llwynygog Staylittle on the third Thursday in each month at 2.30.p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS

This Service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Chest Physician Dr. G.O. Thomas, holds Clinics at the Machynlleth Chest Hospital every Wednesday at 11.0.a.m.

VACCINATION

Vaccination against Small Pox is carried out in this area by the local general practitioners and also at the Machynlleth Infant Welfare Clinic.

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at approximately nine months to one year followed by a booster dose at five years. The value of a high record of immunisation is borne out by the fact that there has been no case of diphtheria in this district for many years. However, it is the practice now, if the child has not had Whooping Cough to offer these injections combined i.e. against diphtheria and whooping cough In this case 3 injections are given at monthly intervals, starting at about 5 - 6 months and still requiring a booster dose when the child goes to school.

PROTECTION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

In 1956 a small amount of Polivicin was made available to vaccinate children born in the years 1947-1954. Because of the limited amount of vaccine children were selected by the month of their birth. However, with increasing supplies it is hoped to be able to vaccinate in 1957 all children whose parents have consented and to extend it to children born in 1955 and 1956

Becuase of the fact that this vaccine has to be stored at a certain temperature and because of the still fairly restricted supplies, vaccination is carried out by Medical Officers employed by the County Council at Schools and Clinics throughout this area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

During the year the Council completed the building of 20 houses at Esgairgeiliog and 4 houses at Llan.

The building of further houses is seriously handicapped owing to the lack of a mains water supply in the area and the lack of sewage disposal scheme. Consequently the general standard of housing is low.

The number of applications for improvement grants is also small owing to the lack of the two points mentioned above, particularly water supply.

WATER SUPPLY

As has been repeatedly reported, the water supply in the district is most unsatisfactory particularly from the point of view of quantity, there being no mains supply except in the village of Esgairgeiliog which is supplied, in bulk, through a meter from Dolgelley Rural District Council.

Apart from the few small water schemes owned by the Council, the remainder of the district relies upon water from private wells and springs.

No reliability can be placed upon the purity of the water as it is derived from land springs which are untreated. Consequently, a considerable amount of time has to be devoted to the sampling of these various springs at frequent intervals, but a far greater problem than this, is the question of rationing the water as during even the shortest period of drought, the level of the springs fall very rapidly.

The Council have for some time engaged the services of Consulting Engineers in an effort to provide the district with water from one source and at the time of this report there is every reason to believe that such a source exists. The matter, however, is still being investigated.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There is one factory in the area where aluminium is extracted from tinfoil. The number of people employed is comparatively small.

There is also an egg-packing station and the sanitary conveniences in both places are inspected periodically.

REFUSE REMOVAL

The collection of refuse together with nightsoil is carried out by direct labour and is deposited at a refuse tip where the tipping is controlled.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The pollution of the above is negligible and there is no need to take any action.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

As previously mentioned in the report, there is no comprehensive scheme in the district. There are a few small schemes which are specifically for the Council's own houses.

CAMPING SITES

There are no specified camping sites in the area as the number of campers in the area are few and far between and the Council has adopted byelaws to prevent any camping on common which, at one time, used to be the practice.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council employs a Part-time Rodent Operator who deals with any outbreaks of rat infestation. So far all infestations have been of a mior character and have been dealt with successfully.

The Council's refuse tip is de-infested as and when necessary.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number in district --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- NIL

BEDBUG INFESTATIONS

Cases reported --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- NIL

RAG FLOCK ACT

Number of premises where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- NIL

VISITS

Total number of visits to various works, water supplies, houses, housing sites, inspections of nuisance etc., --- 1,630

NUISANCES

Number of inspections made	---	---	---	---	---	---	6
Number of Informal Notices	---	---	---	---	---	---	3
Number complied with	---	---	---	---	---	---	3

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